



# KINDER 80

## TRESPASS TO TREASURE

A festival of events marking the 80th anniversary  
of the Kinder Scout Mass Trespass

Programme of events

April 24-29, 2012

The Mass Trespass on Kinder Scout 80 years ago has been described as the most significant event in the century-old battle for the Right to Roam on Britain's mountains and moors, a right now enshrined in the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act, 2000.

The events of Sunday, April 24, 1932 have long since entered the realms of rambling mythology. Members of the Communist-inspired Lancashire branch of the British Workers' Sport Federation had been turned off by gamekeepers on Bleaklow a few weeks before and they were frustrated by the lack of progress between landowners and the recognised ramblers' federations towards the Right to Roam. They decided they would make an advertised, public mass trespass on Kinder Scout, the highest point in the Peak District.

After a rally addressed by Benny Rothman, about 400 ramblers, including a group from Sheffield, set off from Bowden Bridge quarry, west of Hayfield, on that bright spring morning. About halfway up William Clough, the trespassers scrambled off the Snake path, which had been

by keepers, and taken to the Hayfield Lock-up. The day after the trespass, the six ramblers were charged at New Mills Police Court with unlawful assembly and breach of the peace. One of these came along simply as an observer, and went to help the injured gamekeeper.

All subsequently pleaded not guilty and were remanded to be tried at Derby Assizes – 60 miles from their homes – in July, 1932. Five of the six were found guilty and were jailed for between two and six months.

The arrest and subsequent imprisonment of the trespassers unleashed a huge wave of public sympathy, and ironically united the ramblers' cause. A few weeks later in 1932 10,000 ramblers – the largest number in history – assembled for an access rally in the Winnats Pass, near Castleton, and the pressure for greater access continued to grow.

In September of that year, another mass trespass, this time organised by Sheffield ramblers, took place along the Duke of Norfolk's road above

# FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSERS

By Roly Smith, chairman, Kinder 80 committee

established as a right of way in 1897, and up towards the Kinder plateau. They came face-to-face with a line of owner James Watt's gamekeepers, and in the ensuing scuffle one keeper was slightly hurt, but the ramblers pressed on towards the plateau.

Not surprisingly, the recollection of gamekeeper John Watson was quite different. He said the trespassers left the path for about 50 yards, where they were met by two gamekeepers and ten local farmers. At a pre-arranged whistled signal, the trespassers returned to the public footpath, where the majority returned to Hayfield while others, who had not participated in the trespass, continued up the William Clough footpath.

At Ashop Head they were greeted by another group of about 30 Sheffield-based trespassers who had set off that morning crossing Kinder from Edale, and the Snake Pass. After exchanging congratulations, the two groups joyously retraced their steps, the Manchester trespassers to Hayfield and the Sheffield contingent back to Edale.

As the Manchester ramblers returned to Hayfield, six ramblers were arrested by police, accompanied

Abbey Brook on the Bradfield Moors. There was another skirmish with gamekeepers, but this time no arrests were made.

It would be another 17 years of continuous campaigning by groups like the Ramblers' Association and CPRE before the passing of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act by the post-war Labour Government in 1949. This legislation set up the mechanism for the creation of National Parks, and the process for the negotiation of access agreements to open country. The Peak District was the first to be designated, and almost immediately negotiated access agreements with landowners for the former 'battlefields' of the 1930s, on Kinder Scout and Bleaklow.

The CROW Act was finally passed in 2000, and the trespassers' long-cherished right to roam freely in open country was at last realised. In 2002, the late 11th Duke of Devonshire publicly apologized at the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Kinder trespass at Bowden Bridge for his grandfather's and the other landowners' "great wrong" in 1932.

Justice was finally seen to be done.

# What the Trespass means to me

## Fiona Reynolds, Director-General, National Trust



I first took part in a Kinder Mass Trespass event in 1982 on the 50th anniversary, when Benny Rothman himself proudly led us up the hill. It is wonderful to be celebrating the freedom and joy brought by access to beautiful countryside again.

It's a time to pause and reflect on what was achieved, to celebrate the hard-won right to roam freely across our open countryside, and to remind ourselves not to take it for granted.

In the words of one of the National Trust's founders Octavia Hill, whose centenary we are marking this year, "...the need of quiet, the need of air, the need of exercise, the sight of sky and of things growing seem human needs ...common to all".

The Kinder Mass Trespass established our free access to all those pleasures as a right, not a privilege.



## Stuart Maconie, author and BBC Radio 6 presenter

Many of us who love walking and exploring the British countryside do so because of the peace and tranquillity it affords us, to escape from the stresses and hurly-burly of everyday life.

But we should remember that access to that countryside has not always been won so easily or gently. The roots of rambling in this country come from dissent and idealism as much as from emotion recollected in tranquillity.

Eighty years ago, courageous and committed young men and women opposed the establishment and entrenched power and privilege to win the right for all of us to enjoy the countryside which belongs to us all.

*Pictures:*

*Kate Ashbrook: courtesy Andrew McCloy*

*Cover: courtesy Simpologist*

*Back cover: Benny Rothman addresses the 1932 Bowden Bridge rally*

## Mike Harding, author and BBC Radio 2 presenter



When I ran a Sunday night folk club in Manchester in the Sixties, the lobby of the pub would be lined with the rucksacks of people who'd spent all day on the hill. They had got the last train home and were stopping off at the club for a good old sing-song and a pint.

*The Manchester Rambler* (see page 7) was our anthem, and we knew what every word of it meant. In those days, when Socialism wasn't a dirty word and banks didn't take your money down the dog track to bet on the three-legged dog, the Kinder Mass Trespass and Ewan MacColl's song were constant reminders that the freedom of the hills had been won by people who had the guts to stand up to injustice.

We must never forget, particularly now that the NHS and so much else is under threat.

## Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary, Open Spaces Society



There is nothing like the right to roam – the freedom to wander over open country in pursuit of bird, flower, view or prehistoric remains, with no fuss about keeping to the path.

It wasn't always so, and the Kinder trespassers heinously went to prison for harmlessly stepping out on open country.

It is argued how significant the trespass was to our rambling history: sad to say that my predecessor at the Open Spaces Society, Lawrence Chubb, scorned it. But the courage of those ramblers, so poor and starved of fresh air, yet so determined that the few owners and gamekeepers should not deprive us of such simple pleasures, is truly inspiring.

There's still much to do: Scotland is way ahead of England and Wales with its access laws, and landowners and occupiers still put up barriers to keep us out and refuse to dedicate new access. But the memory of Kinder gives us hope and a renewed determination to fight on.

# KINDER 80 TRESPASS TO TREASURE: WALKS & ACTIVITIES

Date	Event	Start location	Time	Distance	Leader	Details	Contact
MARCH Tues 20	Kinder Scout-Iconic Mountain Talk by Shane Bates	Sheffield Quaker Meeting House	19.30		Senior Ranger for Kinder and Edale	Admission £2 (proceeds to Sheffield Ramblers)	Terry Howard 0114 266 5438 tmhoward@live.co.uk
APRIL Sat 21	Kinder Trespass Trail Walk	New Mills Heritage and Information centre	10.45	2 options: 8 miles, 3.5 miles	Led by Jon & Mary Cohen	Booking required	Booking 01629 816290
Sun 22	Kinder Downfall Fell race	Hayfield Scout Hut	11.30	9.6 miles		Registration required	Hayfield Fell Races www.cs.man.ac.uk
Tues 24	Launch Event	Moorland Centre, Edale	10.00			By invitation only	
	Into the Future- Working towards Kinder 100 Talk	Moorland Centre	14.00		Moors For The Future team	No booking required	Moors For The Future 01629 816581
	The Story of the 1932 Kinder Mass Trespass Talk	Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester	19.30		Keith Warrender, author & publisher	Refreshments served from 19.00. No booking required	Salle Dare salle_e_dare@yahoo.co.uk
Wed 25	From Both Sides Now Walk from Edale or Hayfield to Kinder Low	Meet either at Bowden Bridge Hayfield, or Moorland Centre Edale	10.30	Strenuous 4-5 hour walk	NT/PDNPA/DCC	Booking required	Booking 01629 816290
	Health walk	Bowden Bridge, Hayfield	15.30	3-4 miles	High Peak Walks for Health	No booking required Accompanied by NT/DCC/PDNP	High Peak Borough Council call centre 0845 1297777
	Wild Vision Audio visual show by John Beatty	Hope Valley College	19.30			Admission £3 (proceeds to Peak District Mountain Rescue Organisation) No booking required. Refreshments.	01433 620555
Thurs 26	Hidden Hayfield Walk	Sett Valley Trail car park, Hayfield	10.30	6 miles moderate	NT/DCC/PDNPA		Booking 01629 816290
	Dedicated Forever Walk	Sett Valley Trail bus station, Hayfield	10.15	5 miles, moderate	David Frith, Longendale and Glossop Footpath Preservation Society	No booking required	David Frith dabat@tesco.net
	Health walk	Glossop station	10.00	Moderate	HP Walks for Health	No booking required Accompanied by DCC/NT/PDNP	Call High Peak Borough Council call centre 0845 1297777
	Explore the Cloughs Walk	Bowden Bridge, Hayfield	13.30	Very easy, wheelchair accessible	PDNPA	No booking required	Sheila.McHale@peakdistrict.gov.uk 01433 670216
Thurs 26	History of Access up to the Trespass Talk	Sheffield Quaker Meeting House	19.00		David Hey	No booking required	Dave Sissons sissons david@hotmail.com
Fri 27	Station to Station Walk	New Mills Central Station walk to Edale Station	10.00	Strenuous 10 miles	NT/PDNPA/DCC	Booking required	Booking 01629 816290
	Journey to the Dark Side (rock climbing on Kinder) Talk	Moorland Discovery Centre, Longshaw	19.30		Martin Kocsis, BMC	No booking required	Martin Kocsis martin@thebmc.co.uk Venue: 01433 637907
Sat 28	Kinder Surprise Treasure Trail Family event	Bowden Bridge, Hayfield	10.30		NT	Focus on fun, adventure and exploration. No booking required	Helen Tuck helen.tuck@nationaltrust.org.uk 01433 637907
	From Hares to Heather Walk	Bowden Bridge, Hayfield	10.30	Moderate, 4-6 miles	NT/PDNPA/DCC	Booking required	Booking 01629 816290

Date	Event	Start location	Time	Distance	Leader	Comments	Contact
Sun 29	In the Footsteps of the Mass Trespass Walks	Sett Valley Trail car park, Hayfield	Start times: 9.30 10.00 10.30 11.30	Strenuous 12 miles	NT/PDNPA/DCC	Booking required	Booking 01629 816290
	Kinder Woods and Water Family day tree walks and trails	Edale Moorland Centre	10.00	Easy to moderate	Sheila McHale	No booking required	01629 816290
	Ceilidh: Well-Dressed Band with Sally Goldsmith	Broomhall Centre, Sheffield	19.30		Dave Sissons	Admission £3. Booking required	Dave Sissons sissionsdavid@hotmail.com

## Exhibitions

### Working Class Movement Library, The Crescent, Salford

#### Object of the Month: April

A flier advertising the original Kinder Mass Trespass

Website: [www.wcml.org.uk](http://www.wcml.org.uk)

Contact: 0161 736 3601

### Moorland Visitor Centre, Fieldhead, Edale

Tel: 01433 670207; email: [edale@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:edale@peakdistrict.gov.uk)

Contact Jo Kent on 01433 670207

*Head for the Hills* – A mosaic mural celebrating Kinder Scout and the inspiration of Benny Rothman and the Mass Trespass by students of the Manchester Metropolitan University.

*Kinder Mass Trespass Exhibition* – An exhibition of the events that took place in Hayfield on April 24, 1932, by the Kinder Visitor Centre Group Archive Project, Hayfield.

### Castleton Visitor Centre, Buxton Road, Castleton

Tel: 01629 816572;

email: [castleton@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:castleton@peakdistrict.gov.uk)

*Days of Sunshine and Rain: Rambling in the 1920s* – an exhibition of photographs and recollections by George Willis Marshall, from the book by Ann Beedham.

### New Mills Heritage and Information Centre, April 21-29

Tel: 01663 746904;

website: [www.newmillsheritage.com](http://www.newmillsheritage.com)

Contact: Andy Cooper on 0797 965 7779

*The 80th Anniversary of the Kinder Mass Trespass: Countryside Access – Past, Present and Future* – an exhibition on access to the countryside and the 80th anniversary of the Mass Trespass

### Manchester Town Hall, from March

Manchester Histories Festival Exhibition

Contact: Sally Dare; [salle\\_e\\_dare@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:salle_e_dare@yahoo.co.uk)

## Looking to the future

Restoration of Kinder Scout has been going on since 1982, when the National Trust acquired this iconic mountain. As well as supporting a rich moorland ecology, Kinder is also an important carbon store. Eroding peat releases carbon into the atmosphere, so restoration of this precious resource is vital. In addition to providing access for everyone, and working with the Peak District National Park Authority, farmers, tenants and volunteers, this essential work will continue so Kinder can be enjoyed by future generations.



Pic: Martin Doughty

## The battle for KINDER SCOUT including the 1932 Mass Trespass by BENNY ROTHMAN

New updated book with articles  
on the struggle for access  
and stories of the trespassers

FOREWORD BY MIKE HARDING

Available online, bookshops and  
Willow Publishing 0161 980 2633

# Myths, Legends and Truth:

## other contributions to the access movement

*By Terry Howard, President, South Yorkshire & North East Derbyshire Area, Ramblers Association and Secretary, Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland*

Over the years, I have read many articles and listened to many stories about the 1932 Kinder Scout Mass Trespass. One said that Benny Rothman was a Sheffielder, another that the event was led by GHB Ward of the Clarion Ramblers, while others said that if it wasn't for the trespass we wouldn't have the Peak District National Park or the Right to Roam over our moorlands.

In many cases, the story of the trespass has been 'embroidered' with inaccuracies, and important events surrounding it have been ignored. The stories also often overlooked the fact that the struggle for access to mountain and moorlands and the protection of the Peak District is much older than the trespass itself, and continued long after the excitement of the trespass had died down.

They also overlook the many individuals and organisations who contributed to over a century of campaigning and fighting for access, and who never saw the fruits of their endeavours. We often hear of the Kinder 'heroes', but there were many others both before and after the trespass who deserve to be remembered, because without them we may not have achieved what we enjoy today.

So what did the Kinder Trespass of 1932 achieve? As a youngster, I was brought up on the story of the Kinder Trespass, and it excited me. It helped give me a purpose – that of equal rights and equal opportunities for all.

To the Outdoor Movement and people of later generations it inspired them to continue with the struggle for access, not leaving off as they had done before, but to see the fight through. This was finally achieved 68 years later with the passing of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act was passed in 1949, securing the protection of our most valued places).

So who has been involved over the generations? There were many outdoor rambling groups, particularly from Sheffield and Manchester, including an extensive list of individual rambling and cycling clubs, such as the Peak & Northern Footpath Society. All of these should be remembered for their involvement and support.



*A rare picture of GHB Ward (centre, white jumper) trespassing on Kinder Scout in January 1924. From Days of Sunshine and Rain by Ann Beedham.*

The main 'official' bodies were:-

- Sheffield & Manchester Ramblers Associations
- British Mountaineering Council
- Ramblers' Association (national)
- Open Spaces Society
- Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland
- Woodcraft Folk
- Council (now Campaign) for the Protection of Rural England
- National Trust
- Peak District National Park
- Derbyshire County Council
- Sheffield City Council
- The Labour Party and successive Labour Governments

So 80 years on as we remember the Kinder trespassers, let us also give thanks to GHB Ward of the Sheffield Clarion Ramblers, to Ethel Gallimore of CPRE, and to Tom Stephenson of the RA, and to all the many access campaigners over the years.

It has been a job well done, and a real privilege for me personally to be part of a movement which champions the rights of all people to walk freely over and enjoy our beautiful countryside.

# THE MANCHESTER RAMBLER by Ewan MacColl

I've been over Snowdon, I've slept upon  
Crowden,  
I've camped by the Wain Stones as well;  
I've sunbathed on Kinder, been burned to a  
cinder,  
And many more things I can tell.  
My rucksack has oft been my pillow,  
The heather has oft been my bed;  
And sooner than part from the mountains  
I think I would rather be dead.

Chorus

*I'm a rambler, I'm a rambler, from  
Manchester way,  
I get all my pleasure the hard moorland way;  
I may be a wage slave on Monday,  
But I am a free man on Sunday.*

There's pleasure in dragging through peat bogs  
and bragging  
Of all the fine walks that you know;  
There's even a measure of some kind of  
pleasure  
In wading through ten feet of snow.  
I've stood on the edge of the Downfall,  
And seen all the valleys outspread;  
And sooner than part from the mountains,  
I think I would rather be dead.

(Chorus)

The day was just ending as I was descending  
Down Grindsbrook just by Upper Tor,  
When a voice cried, "Hey you!" in the way  
keepers do  
(He'd the worst face that ever I saw).  
The things that he said were unpleasant;  
In the teeth of his fury I said,  
That sooner than part from the mountains,  
I think I would rather be dead.

(Chorus)

He called me a louse and said, "Think of the  
grouse."  
Well I thought but I still couldn't see  
Why old Kinder Scout and the moors round  
about  
Couldn't take both the poor grouse and me.  
He said, "All this land is my master's."  
At that I stood shaking my head;  
No man has the right to own mountains  
Any more than the deep ocean bed.

(Chorus)

I once loved a maid, a spot-welder by trade,  
She was fair as the rowan in bloom,  
And the blue of her eye matched the June  
moorland sky,  
And I wooed her from April to June.  
On the day that we should have been married,  
I went for a ramble instead,  
For sooner than part from the mountains,  
I think I would rather be dead.

(Chorus)

So I'll walk where I will over mountain and hill  
And I'll lie where the bracken is deep;  
I belong to the mountains, the clear running  
fountains  
Where the grey rocks rise rugged and steep.  
I've seen the white hare in the gulleys,  
And the curlew fly high overhead,  
And sooner than part from the mountains  
I think I would rather be dead.

(Chorus)

*All lyrics © Ewan MacColl Ltd.  
Woodcut by Jeremy Sancha.*



# Can you help?

The Kinder Visitor Centre Group at Hayfield has set up the Kinder Trespass Archive Project to research the Kinder Mass Trespass. It is looking for photos, memorabilia and memories of the event and surrounding issues. The material will be made available on a dedicated website, and the long term aim is to establish a visitor centre in Hayfield to display some of this material and to be a focus for access issues today. If you can help in any way please get in touch by email at: [kindertrespass@btinternet.com](mailto:kindertrespass@btinternet.com)

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*Kinder and High Peak Advisory Committee*

*National Trust*

*Peak District National Park Sustainable Development Fund*

*Peak District National Park Authority*

*Derbyshire County Council*

*Ramblers*

*British Mountaineering Council*

*Open Spaces Society*

*Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland*

*For more details, visit our website: [www.kindertrespass.com](http://www.kindertrespass.com)*

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